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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1992

Mountain Rescue Is a Collective Success

An unusual telephone call to The HSUS resulted in the West Coast Regional Office's rescue of five stranded horses in the High Sierra of California. In late October WCRO Investigator Kurt Lapham checked out the report from a Florida woman who had heard that five horses had been stranded in snow in the "mountains" of San Jose, California. Lapham, knowing the San Francisco Bay area, called a local media friend and learned of a wire service account describing animals stranded, not in San Jose, but in the High Sierra in Tuolumne County. Lapham talked to

Deputy Dave Grant of the Tuolumne County Sheriff Rescue Squad, who said four mules and one horse had been stranded in the Emigrant Gap Wilderness area of the Stanislaus National Forest since the blizzard the previous weekend. Twenty-two people were also stranded. The animals were to be removed the next day by the U.S. Forest Service, which planned to break a path through the snow and lead them out.

The next day Grant called Lapham to report that the Forest Service's attempt had failed. The only possible way to get the

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animals out now was by helicopter, and another storm was moving in.

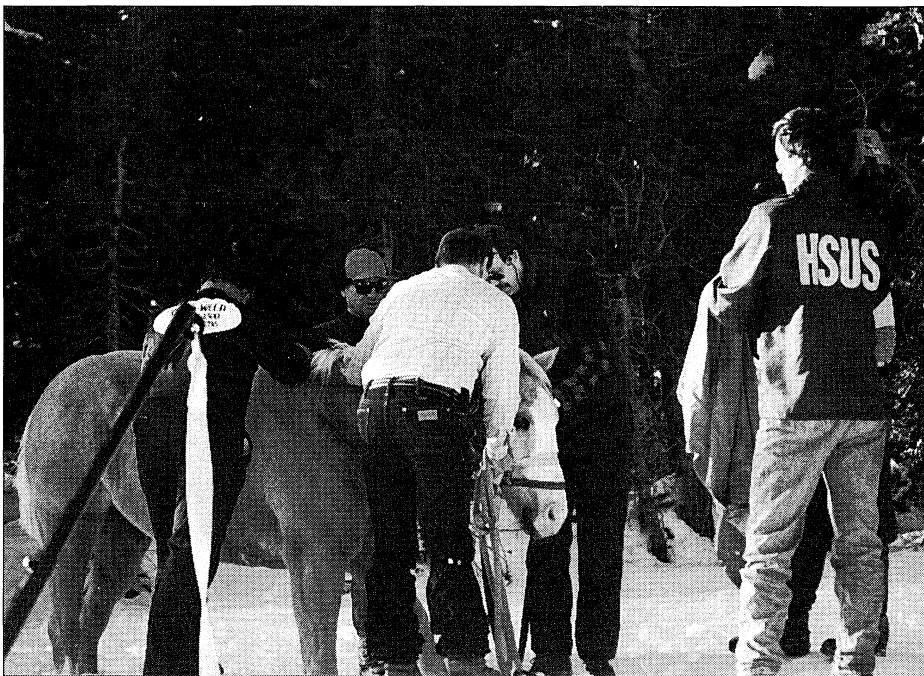
Lapham asked Grant to clear with the Forest Service a helicopter landing in the national forest and to contact the animals' owners. He also arranged with Dr. Jeff Wittman of the Sonora Veterinary Hospital for medical care for the animals during the rescue.

Dr. John Madigan from the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine agreed to allow the use of one of its equine slings and offered his services and those of another veterinarian familiar with the slinging of horses. WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach arranged with West-Winds Helicopter Service for the charter of a helicopter for the following day.

The sling to be used in the rescue was a prototype that had never been used in a rescue attempt of such magnitude. One helicopter became two, and the team going to the mountains grew from an original eight to include seven veterinary school members and the inventor of the rescue sling, Charles Anderson. The university set up a mobile veterinary unit for use once the animals had been flown out.

On November 1 at 8:30 A.M., two helicopters left Rancho Cordova, just outside Sacramento, for the scheduled landing at Dodge Ridge Ski Resort. Three media helicopters followed to film the rescue.

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(From left to right) Charles Anderson, Richard Morgan, Gene Strand, and John Madigan help to strap a stranded horse into an equine sling prior to lift-off. The WCRO's Kurt Lapham films the activities in what became known as "Operation Pegasus."

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP

New laws passed by the California legislature went into effect with the new year. The major ones are:

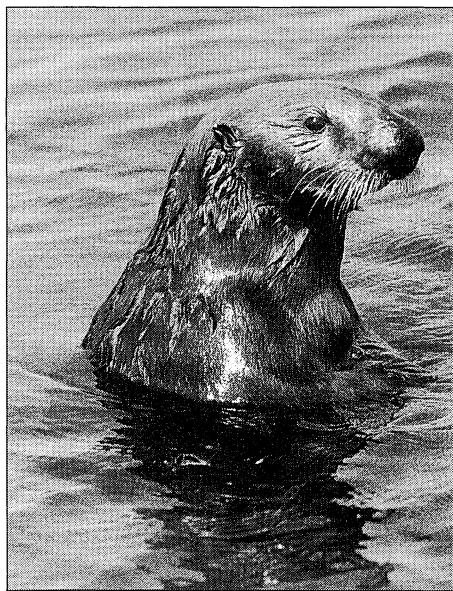
A.B. 281: restores the endangered species tax check-off. California taxpayers can donate \$1 to protect endangered species by checking line 50 on the 540 or line 3 on the 540A on the California state income tax forms. The law is Chptr. No. 477.

A.B. 1000: includes poultry in the humane slaughter requirements in all California commercial processing facilities. The law is Chptr. No. 837.

A.B. 1900: prohibits any person from purchasing, consigning, selling, or accepting the donation of a horse, mule, or burro destined for slaughter unless a written bill of sale or other written instrument is provided. This law will help track animals stolen or received under false pretenses that are going to slaughter. The law is Chptr. No. 747.

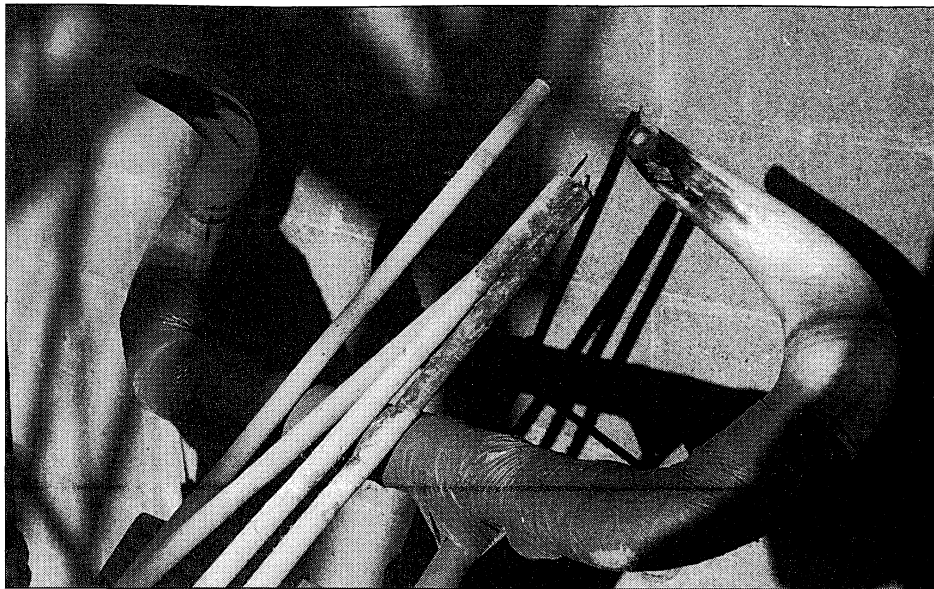
S.B. 1013: makes alligator farms illegal in California. The law is Chptr. No. 776.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of these new laws may contact the legislative bill room at (916) 445-2323, State Capital, Room B32, Sacramento, CA 95814-4997.



LEONARD LEE RUE

A sea otter frolics off the California coast; A.B. 281, which restores the \$1 endangered species check-off on state tax forms, has been passed into law. It went into effect in January of this year.



HSUS/SAKACH

Animal-control officers and WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach discovered this collection of banderillas at the Campo Bravo bullring. Laboratory tests later confirmed that the implements bore traces of blood from an animal of undetermined species. The bullfighter involved said he did not know that the state prohibits bullfighting.

HSUS Investigator Discovers a Bullfight in Progress

In November HSUS Investigator Eric Sakach was traveling through San Joaquin County in California's central valley when he drove by the Campo Bravo bullring, just outside the small town of Escalon. Although bullfights (both bloodless and traditional) are prohibited in California, the Campo Bravo bullring is well known to humane and animal-control authorities and has been the subject of past investigations by the WCRO.

Sakach noticed a man on horseback holding what appeared to be a banderilla (a long, wooden dowel with a spike at one end) in a fashion used by bullfighters when attempting to stab the back of a bull. Parking beside the road, Sakach walked to a vantage point outside the arena where he would not be trespassing but could easily see the rider and a small black cow involved in a practice session of Portuguese-style bullfighting. The rider continually rode into the path of the charging animal until he was in a position to plunge the sharp banderilla into its back. Sakach photographed the activity to show to local authorities.

Later Sakach met county animal-control officers at the arena to interview the bullfighter and others that may have been

involved. The cow was examined by the officers. A stab wound was photographed and a collection of banderillas was seized for analysis of what appeared to be bloodstains. (Laboratory tests later confirmed that the blood was from an animal but were inconclusive as to from what species.) Sakach's witness report and photographs were turned over to the animal-control agency, whose officers continued the investigation. The bullfighter and another man Sakach had observed at the time of the incident gave conflicting accounts of what had happened in the arena. The bullfighter did, however, admit to stabbing the cow with the practice banderilla but stated that he was visiting from Portugal and didn't know the activity was against the law.

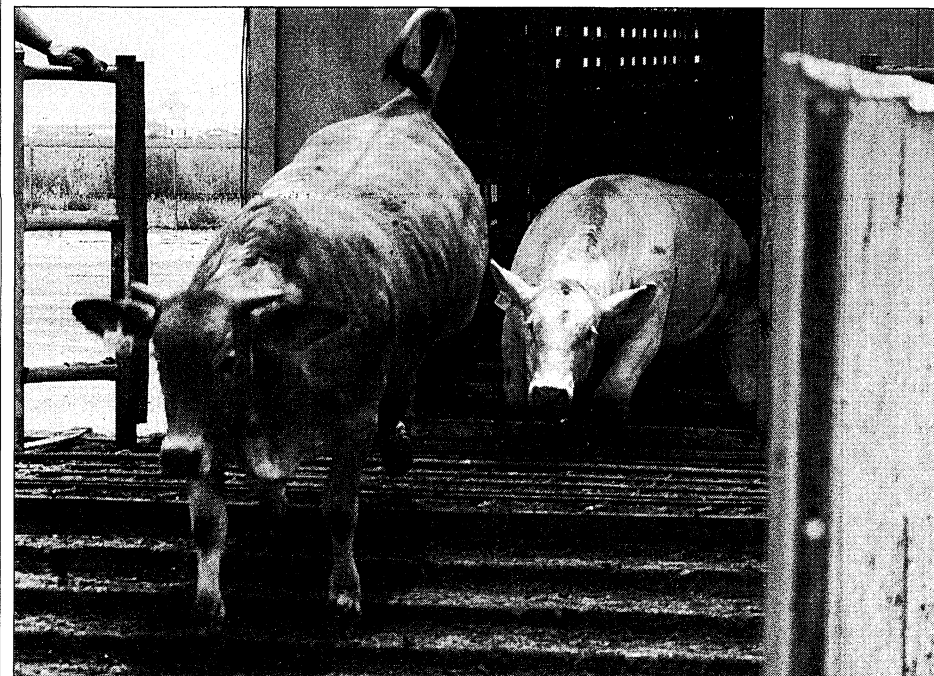
The WCRO has been advised that, at this time, the San Joaquin district attorney has decided not to prosecute the case as it involved only "circumstantial evidence susceptible to multiple interpretation" and "no reasonable probability of a conviction" despite an eyewitness, photographs, and physical evidence of the crime. The WCRO is researching other state and federal venues in which those involved could be brought to justice.

The Past Is Repeated at Area Livestock Auctions

Ten years ago the WCRO reported abuse of animals at livestock auctions after inspecting sales yards across California. At that time we found that, while some auctions were generally clean and animals were handled in an acceptable manner, many others were not well maintained and animals were handled carelessly and abusively. In 1985 a coalition of responsible animal-protection organizations, including The HSUS, was formed to deal with the problems of livestock transportation and auction abuses and to determine what steps the livestock industry was willing to take to improve conditions. The coalition held meetings with industry representatives and suggested that self-imposed improvements were long overdue. In response to a request from members of the California Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, and others, the coalition proposed thirty-one-point guidelines for review and response by the Independent Livestock Markets of California. Unfortunately, it received little positive action from livestock interests. A recently completed round of livestock-auction inspections has revealed that conditions for and treatment

of livestock are as bad as ever at some facilities. WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach is bothered by the same callous disregard he saw ten years ago: "It's not uncommon to see baby calves delivered to an auction in overcrowded trailers where they are routinely hit, kicked, and shocked with electric prods. Those too weak to stand may be trampled by other animals, dragged through the sales area, or left to die unattended among the carcasses of other animals. It's not unusual to see squealing piglets thrown into the backs of pick-up trucks or sheep and goats stuffed inside automobile trunks."

"Livestock producers, auction operators, and buyers aren't ignorant of the problem," he continues. "Livestock-marketing associations have produced training tapes for the humane handling of livestock, and the industry has decried the waste of millions of tons of meat each year due to bruising from careless and inhumane handling practices, yet these practices continue." The WCRO is actively seeking out sympathetic prosecutors and encouraging the prosecutions of the most serious cases of auction abuses.



NEUSMILLER

Auction abuses can be found nationwide. Here, a cow stumbles as it attempts to negotiate a gap between the truck bed and ramp at an auction yard. Auction inspections in California have revealed that conditions at some facilities haven't improved in ten years.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

by Char Drennon

Last year was a busy one, as you can see from this report covering only a few months' activities. Limitations of space make it impossible to mention all the cases and legislative activity we have been involved in, but we have listed some of these new laws in the Legislative Lineup.

We have also been working hard on pet overpopulation. The auditor general's report we requested through State Sen. David Roberti found that a number of animal-control agencies and humane societies in California were not following state law in the use of spay-and-neuter deposits. Many have taken corrective measures, and we're happy that shelters are beginning to recognize the overpopulation problem. More shelters are refusing to release intact animals. The HSUS will persevere until our goal is met—no intact animal should be released from any facility.

This fall I was asked to participate in a statewide task force, Animals: The Year 2000, put together by the California State Health Department. We're addressing such issues as animal identification, health, and inoculations and humane education. The WCRO participated in a conference held jointly by California Veterinary Medical Association and The University of California-Davis on pet overpopulation and its possible solutions. Both meetings brought together animal-control, humane society, veterinary, education, and legislative personnel to work toward mutual goals to help animals and people.

This year already finds us with more requests for help than we can fill. We will be working on legislation in Washington, Oregon, and Nevada, as well as in California. Several animal-control agencies have asked our office to evaluate their shelters and programs. More people than ever are starting their own local humane groups and need help with the "how to's." We began the year with the smashing success of Animal Expo in Nevada, the first ever international animal-control exposition.

All of us at the WCRO appreciate the support you, the HSUS members in the region, give us in the struggle to protect animals. Without your help, we would not have won the battles of the past. It is your help that also enables us to muster the strength we need in 1992.

Mountain Rescue

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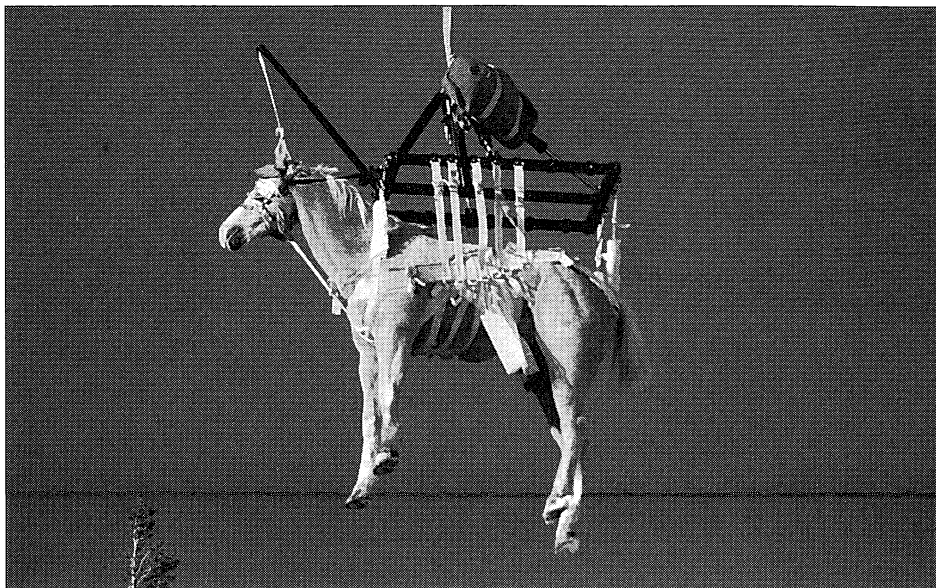
At the resort the rescue team was greeted by the Tuolumne County Search and Rescue Squad, headed by assistant fire chief Jim Mendonsa, Grant, and a group of media and curious onlookers.

After a briefing a quick training course was given on the operation of the sling equipment. Then the rescue team was transported to where the animals had been waiting for a week.

The sling frame was hooked to the end of the 127-foot cable under the helicopter. The animals were tranquilized uneventfully.

Then the rescue team watched as, one by one, all five animals were put in the sling, lifted from the ground, and flown to safety over the treetops.

Thanks go to helicopter pilot Scott Baker as well as to all the others involved in this dramatic rescue. ■



Up, up, and away goes one of the rescued horses, securely strapped into its sling, tranquilized, and blindfolded to maintain its calm. The WCRO coordinated the efforts of veterinarians, helicopter pilots, law-enforcement officers, and sling inventor Charles Anderson to rescue five horses from the High Sierra of Tuolumne County, California. Media interest in the spectacular November rescue was high.

Reflect for a moment...

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip code _____

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

Sebastian's Club U.N.I.T.E. Takes Off in the Region

WCRO Investigator Kurt Lapham recently represented The HSUS at the Sebastian International conference, "Turning Point," held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Lapham gave two speeches on HSUS programs—one to approximately 450 people from across the country in the afternoon and the other to 125 consumers from the Las Vegas area that evening. Both speeches were part of Club U.N.I.T.E., the new program of Sebastian International and its president, John Sebastian. Club U.N.I.T.E. was developed by the personal-care-products company to benefit seven different foundations, including The HSUS. "Club U.N.I.T.E. is the first program in which a major corporation is devoting its time and resources to benefit seven very worthwhile organizations dealing with very serious problems facing our world today," says Lapham.

Sebastian International clients can join Club U.N.I.T.E. at their neighborhood

salons by making a \$10 donation to one of the participating groups. They then receive a quarterly magazine, along with other gifts and product incentives. Sebastian International is known worldwide for its products, its contribution to environmental awareness, and its longstanding policy against animal testing.

More than 8,000 hairdressers, salon owners, and beauty suppliers had an opportunity to learn about the programs and mission of The HSUS at a Club U.N.I.T.E. booth during the California Hairdressers Guild Convention held in Sacramento, California, in November. WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach was available at the booth to help explain The HSUS and its involvement with Club U.N.I.T.E. "Many of the convention attendees were happy to hear about the HSUS and its goals," said Sakach. The WCRO will continue to spread the HSUS message at Club U.N.I.T.E. functions. ■